

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction among the following species of the claimed invention:

Species A: Drawn to Figure 1;

Species B: Drawn to Figure 1A;

Species C: Drawn to Figure 1B;

Species D: Drawn to Figure 2;

Species E: Drawn to Figure 2A;

Species F: Drawn to Figure 3; and

Species G: Drawn to Figure 3A

According to the Examiner's election/restriction requirement, Figures 1, 1A, 1B, 2, 2A, 3, and 3A present patentably distinct species and require election of a single species for examination purposes. Applicant hereby elects claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 11, 14-17, 19-22, 25, 26, and 28-40, drawn to Species B, which Applicant interprets to be drawn to the drug delivery system illustrated in Figure 1A.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the election requirement is requested. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that no pending claims are generic, as noted on page 2 of the Office Action. Insofar as claims 1-3, 6, 10, 11, 14-17, 26, and 28-40 are generic to all of the species claimed (Species A-G), Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement by the Examiner. Moreover, it would appear that a single search should suffice for examination of all of the species claimed in the present invention. Thus, the election requirement does not appear to be necessary.

It is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that each of claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 11, 14-17, 19-22, 25, 26, and 28-40 presently pending in this application be examined. In order to expedite prosecution, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned Agent for Applicant at the telephone number below, if there are any remaining issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

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